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DISPATCH NO. TLB-1690

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TO : Chief, WHD

DATE: 22 April 1952

FROM :

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Hungarians in Colombia

SPECIFIC— Ferenc VAJTA

REF: TLB-W-1041

1. The subject is still teaching social sciences at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá. This job pays him only 360 pesos monthly, and he recently tried to supplement his income by obtaining a teaching position at the Universidad Nacional. He was turned down, and the reason given by VAJTA is that leaders of the Catholic Church in Colombia objected to his activities against Georges KIBEDI. The latter, according to VAJTA, had influential supporters among the Jesuits, and KIBEDI's expulsion from the country caused the Church to block VAJTA's appointment. Although VAJTA is Catholic, he maintains that here he is regarded as anti-Catholic by the Church. He is now trying to get a job with the new normal school for women in Bogotá.

2. His present plans are uncertain, but he has stated that he will probably have to go to Europe before he is able to enter the United States. He still hopes to accomplish the latter. Lately VAJTA has been on fairly friendly terms with Frans von HILDEBRAND, director of the Universidad de los Andes. HILDEBRAND says that he in no way approves the political ideas espoused by VAJTA in the past, but that the subject appears to be staying out of political activities in Colombia. HILDEBRAND feels sure that VAJTA has no other income except that which he gets from the university. VAJTA has a tendency to gossip and spread stories about his fellow teachers. The theme which he stresses now is anti-Communism and friendship for the United States.

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